



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

August 2, 2017

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to conduct a forest and grassland management project across a project area approximately 2,917 acres in size on its Blackfoot Clearwater Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA). The proposed forest management project would focus on removing conifers (ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir) that have expanded into a rough fescue-bluebunch wheatgrass grassland (native grassland) and ponderosa pine grassland savannah along the western portion of the BCWMA in Missoula County. The native grassland provides critical winter range for the Blackfoot-Clearwater elk herd that has a current population size of approximately 1,000 animals. Depending on stand type, treatments would include complete removal or thinning of conifers and some prescribed burning.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning August 2).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2017.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I will issue the Decision Notice for this EA after the end of the public comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Arnold", written in a cursive style.

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr